

## Message Text

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16

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06

IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 CIEP-02 /159 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WHMANGER/LD

APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR/WE:RDVINE

T/IEP :JTARRANT

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R 072355Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 026202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, PFOR, LU

SUBJECT: ENERGY: LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS  
ON EC COUNCIL MEETING

1. LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR WAGNER, FRESH FROM CONSULTA-  
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TIONS, REVIEWED FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FOREIGN

MINISTER THORN'S REACTION TO FEBRUARY 4-5 EC COUNCIL MEETING. WAGNER SAID THORN WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. THE FRENCH HAD BEEN EXTREMELY TOUGH AT EC MEETING, WITH OTHERS (ESPECIALLY THE FRG AND BENELUX) LINED UP ON THE OTHER SIDE ARGUING FOR US CASE. THORN FEARS THAT FRENCH ATTITUDES THREATEN NOT ONLY EC COHESION, BUT ALSO EC'S RELATIONS WITH THE US.

2. WAGNER REPORTED THAT COUNCIL FOCUSED ONLY BRIEFLY ON ENERGY CONFERENCE. MINISTERS EXAMINED QUESTIONS OF PROCEDURE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE, PARTLY DUE TO THEIR FEARS OF AMERICAN TUTELAGE OF EUROPE IN MANAGING ENERGY CRISIS, BUT MORE TO THE GENERAL CONFUSION IN EUROPE AND FACT THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS ARE WEAK. HARTMAN SAID THAT THIS PROVIDES ALL THE MORE REASON FOR THE EC TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER CONSUMERS. AS FOR US TUTELAGE, HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE US IS THE ONE COUNTRY BEST SUITED TO HANDLE THE ENERGY CRISIS. THE OIL PRICE SITUATION IS ALREADY STARK. IF CONSUMER COOPERATION FAILS AND A FREE-

FOR-ALL DEVELOPS, WE COULD OUTBID EVERYBODY FOR SUPPLIES. HARTMAN SAID THAT, DESPITE ATTENDANCE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS, WE ATTACH HIGH POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO CONFERENCE. WE ARE AT A WATERSHED: CONSUMER COUNTRIES CAN DETERMINE WHETHER TO ACHIEVE A COOPERATIVE WORLD OR TO PURSUE THEIR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS.

3. WAGNER RECOUNTED SEVERAL COMMON ATTITUDES THAT HAD RESULTED FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING:

(A) EC OPPOSES INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT, BUT THORN FEELS THAT REFERENCE IN EC POSITION PAPER TO "FLEXIBLE PROCEDURES" OPENS DOOR TO SOME INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT IMPLY A "PERMANENT" INSTITUTION.

(B) CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT EXTEND BEYOND TUESDAY: HARTMAN NOTED THAT WAS OUR VIEW.

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(C) MAJORITY IN EC BELIEVE ALL CONFERENCE SESSIONS SHOULD BE IN PLENARY.

(D) EC STRONGLY FEELS THAT MONETARY PROBLEMS ARISING FROM ENERGY SITUATION SHOULD REMAIN IN IMF'S DOMAIN.

4. WAGNER CONSIDERED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION IS

UNTENABLE AND THAT BILATERAL DEALS WILL ONLY HARM FRANCE  
IN THE END. THEY AGREED THAT FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY NOT  
JOIN OTHER CONSUMERS IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. AS A  
RESULT, ACCORDING TO WAGNER, THORN FEARS THAT FRENCH  
ATTITUDE RE ENERGY COULD BRING THE EC TO THE BREAKING  
POINT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, PETROLEUM, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PRICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE026202  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WHMANGER/LD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740248/aaaabsrq.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ENERGY: LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEWS ON EC COUNCIL MEETING  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ENRG, LU, US, EEC  
**To:** LUXEMBOURG  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005